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14. — *The Grammar of English Grammars, with an Introduction Historical and Critical; the whole methodically arranged and amply illustrated; with Forms of Correcting and of Parsing, Improperities for Correction, Examples for Parsing, Questions for Examination, Exercises for Writing, Observations for the Advanced Student, Decisions and Proofs for the Settlement of Disputed Points, Occasional Strictures and Defences, an Exhibition of the several Modes of Analysis, and a Key to the Oral Exercises; to which are added Four Appendixes, pertaining separately to the Four Parts of Grammar.* By GOULD BROWN. Second Edition, revised and improved. New York: Samuel S. and William Wood. 1857. 8vo. pp. 1070.

WE have copied the whole of this long title, which we should have abbreviated were it not an honest title, — were not all the promises it makes fulfilled in the book. It is indeed an encyclopædia of English and general grammar, of the dicta of grammarians, and of all subjects nearly enough allied to grammar to shelter themselves under its name. It can hardly fail of a place in every public library, and on the table of every scholar who is curious as to the structure of his wonted instrument for the reception and transmission of thought. The volume might have been smaller; for it can never be a school-book, and therefore it might have dispensed with the apparatus of examples and exercises adapted to school use. But there are no sins of omission. We doubt whether a topic of grammatical interest could be named which is not here discussed. Yet more, compared with other recent grammarians, Brown's theories and classifications are, on the one hand, simple and easy of comprehension, and, on the other, they shun the extreme of generalization, which in some treatises obliterates real distinctions and confounds essential differences. We should prefer Lindley Murray's nomenclature and arrangement, but, among recent authors, we accord our preference to Brown. The work needs an alphabetical index, which might easily be added in future issues from the plates of the present edition.

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15. — *Report on the Vital Statistics of the United States, made to the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.* By JAMES WYNNE, M.D. New York: H. Bailliere. 1857. 4to. pp. 214.

THAT figures cannot lie is a plausible fallacy. Nothing can be more delusive than such statistics as are often assumed as the basis of opinion and action. When they embrace only a part of the data essential to a

correct conclusion, or when, covering only a limited extent, and thus liable to be modified by local circumstances, they are made to subserve a broad generalization, they can only lead to error, or perpetuate falsities already current. We make these remarks as suggestive of the peculiar and great merit of Dr. Wynne's book. His inquiries comprehend all parts of our country, all the diversities of condition, occupation, climate, situation, liability to disease, in fine, all such circumstances bearing upon longevity as can be deduced from registers and presented numerically. These are handled with an eminently philosophic treatment, by a mind committed to no theory, and evidently bent solely on the enucleation of the truth. The only error that can attach itself to the conclusions results from the deficiency of American records, and that error is reduced to its minimum by carefully reasoned analogies, based upon the materials in hand. It is gratifying to know that no less than eighteen Life Insurance Companies have aided in the expense of preparing this work. The solvency of these companies, of course, depends on the trustworthiness of their tables of longevity, and the judiciousness of their regulations as to the variable sanitary condition and liabilities of applicants. Their insolvency would be a public calamity of the first magnitude, sweeping away the sole provision which thousands make for the support of their families and the security of their creditors. Dr. Wynne has thus rendered a great and lasting service to his country ; while his work cannot but redound to his own high reputation for industry, ability, and scientific culture.

16. — *The American Angler's Guide ; or, Complete Fisher's Manual for the United States : containing the Opinions and Practices of experienced Anglers of both Hemispheres ; with the various Modes adopted in Ocean, River, Lake, and Pond Fishing ; the usual Tackle and Baits required ; Instructions in the Art of making Artificial Flies ; Methods of making Fish-Ponds, Transportation of Fish, etc., etc., etc.* Fourth Edition, revised, corrected, and greatly improved, with the addition of a Second Part, containing over one hundred Pages of useful and instructive Information. Handsomely illustrated with twenty Engravings of the principal Angle Fish of America, and embellished with numerous Engravings on Steel, Stone, and Wood, by the best Artists. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1857. pp. 332.

THIS is one of the most beautiful books of the current year. Its engravings alone would give it a very great interest and value. Its